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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
VENEZUELA

IPF:(1992-96) $ 3 728 000

(VEN/92/015) - Feasibility Studies for the Environmentally Sound Development of River Basins and the Improvement of Water and Sewage Systems

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	3 June 1992
Expected duration:	Two years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources
Proposed UNDP contribution:	nil
Government cost sharing:	5 025 700 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	5 025 700

Project background

The development strategy followed by Venezuela during the last three decades has concentrated the population and industrial activity in few areas. This has contributed to the deterioration of the environment, through mining, oil exploration, industrial activity and the disposal of untreated sewage into rivers, lakes and the sea. The supply of water to populated areas and industrial activities is increasingly becoming more difficult; and water shortages are now more frequent.

The Government is implementing a number of programmes directed to reduce population pressure and the expansion of industrial activities in areas with delicate environmental conditions. In particular, it has initiated an important programme to improve the management, conservation and development of river basins, that includes the development of the Orinoco-Apure river basin. To complement these actions, the Government has also begun a number of initiatives to strengthen its capacity to carry out environmental impact studies of large investment projects in order to ensure that the development of specific areas take into account environmental concerns. At the same time, the Government is taking action to solve specific environmental problems to reduce pollution and regenerate specific areas of the country.

In order to complement the resources that are required to implement these programmes, the Government has obtained a loan from the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) to carry out initial studies to support the development of river basins, plan future investments for

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

the improvement of water and sewage systems, and reduce the damage to the environment. Furthermore, the Ministry of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources has made an assessment of its position to implement these programmes without delay; and has concluded that it needs the direct support of UNDP to carry out a number of feasibility studies. This support will be the basis for major investments. To strengthen the technical and operational capacity of the Directorates for river basin conservation and environmental monitoring and control, the office responsible for the Orinoco-Apure programme, and the Water Company in charge of the Capital Zone and the Vargas Borough, HIDROCAPITAL, the Government requested UNDP assistance under the present approval.

Description of project

The proposed project will contribute to the achievement of the first and third concentration areas of the Fifth Country Programme, which are directed to support the decentralization and modernization of the public sector and the conservation of the environment and management of natural resources. It will provide feasibility studies to take sound investment decisions for the conservation of the environment and development of river basins and water supply and sewage systems, and strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources in these areas. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) develop river basins to prepare river basin and conservation studies for the main areas of the country; (b) prepare a development plan for the navigation of the Orinoco-Apure River Basin; (c) conserve the environment to support the institutional development of the Directorate for Environmental Conservation; and (d) establish water supply and sewage systems to prepare studies for the institutional development and operational improvement of the water supply public enterprises operating in the Vargas Borough.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 217 work-months of international and national professional personnel in project evaluation and monitoring (122 work-months), water and sewage engineering (46 work-months), socio-economic evaluation (26 work-months), and miscellaneous technical consultants (32 work-months); subcontracts for the design of the Maya dam (US$ 658,000), water distribution systems (US$ 630,000), sewage systems (US$ 364,000), organization and institution development (US$ 275,000), socio-economic study (US$ 325,000), soil conservation (US$ 83,000), hydrological studies (US$ 153,000), rural and agricultural development (US$ 161,000), soil erosion (US$ 92,000), bathymetry study (US$ 92,000), topographic survey (US$ 61,000), river load and transportation modes (US$ 200,000), study of ports improvement (US$ 265,000), survey water ways capacity (US$ 275,000), and pre-feasibility studies for Orinoco river investments (US$ 280,000); on-the-job training on water supply and sewage systems, environmental impact analysis, and river basin conservation and development; equipment for information systems; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	522 800
Subcontract	4 365 600
Training	38 000
Equipment	51 300
Miscellaneous	48 000
Total	5 025 700

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